

Claims

1. An effects application system comprising:
 - an effects source for applying an effect onto an image and
 - a translucent masking tool which defines a masked portion that prevents the effects source from applying the effect onto the masked portion of the image.
2. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent masking tool has a customizable shape.
3. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent masking tool is movable relative to the image.
4. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent masking tool simulates a fixed edge.
5. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the masked portion of the image is denoted by cross-hatching while the masked portion of the image is still viewable by a user.
6. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the masked portion of the image is denoted by shading while the masked portion of the image is still viewable by a user.

7. A method of masking comprising:
- positioning a masking tool over a masked portion of an image;
 - applying an effect onto the image outside the masked portion; and
 - dynamically moving the masking tool while applying the effect wherein the masked portion changes as the masking tool is dynamically moved.
8. The method according to Claim 7 further comprising customizing a shape of the masking tool.
9. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masking tool is translucent.
10. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masked portion of the image is viewable to a user.
11. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masked portion of the image is shaded.
12. The method according to Claim 7 wherein dynamically moving the masking tool and applying the effect occur simultaneously.
13. The method according to Claim 7 further comprising applying multiple masking tools onto the image.